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15 August 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD.

SUBJECT: 1. Possible PNG of Mikhail Aleksandrovich
MURNIKOV []
2. Hellar GRABBI []

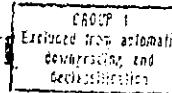
1. After discussion with representatives of SB and
CA/Bl on 14 August, I met with [] and []
of the RCMP. I told them that we had reviewed the
information available on this case, and there were a number
of questions still bothering us.

2. First of all, why is MURNIKOV rather than another
officer being selected for the PNG action? Isn't his tour
about to end? And why is publicity desired in this case?
[] said that publicity is the aim in this instance, and
he surmised that it was because there had not been any good
PNG publicity or anti-RIS publicity in Canada recently. In
particular, as he understood it, the RCMP was eager to have
publicity reflecting undesirable Soviet activities among
emigres. The fact that MURNIKOV's tour is almost complete
does not deter the RCMP, since their objective is not really
to get rid of MURNIKOV. In fact, they have been rather con-
cerned that MURNIKOV might depart PCS before the PNG action
could be completed. And MURNIKOV himself was selected be-
cause he has indeed been involved with the emigre community.

3. I asked whether the RCMP didn't have any grounds
better than GRABBI's information on which to base their ac-
tion. [] immediate reaction was that there was no
more substantial information on MURNIKOV. I indicated that
we would be very envious if a PNG action should succeed on
no more substantial grounds than these which did not appear
to involve espionage or, really, subversion, and appeared to
be only slightly different from USIA activities. After I

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explained to him what USIA does, C [] repeatedly asserted that MURNIKOV was, after all, attempting to "penetrate" the Estonian community in Canada. (I was unable to match his indignation.)

4. I asked C [] whether the RCMP had followed up on any of GRABBI's leads, and he vaguely guessed that perhaps they have, but he was not sure. I asked if any information on MURNIKOV's activities among Estonians had been acquired by the RCMP independently and without reference to GRABBI's information. C [] was not sure. I noted that one of the memoranda we have received from the RCMP made reference to the RCMP's concern about MURNIKOV's activities among emigres since 1965 and asked if this perhaps indicated independent information, since GRABBI only appeared on the scene in 1968. C [] did not know whether anything other than overt contacts by MURNIKOV had been noted between 1965 and the appearance of GRABBI.

5. I explained to C [] that we were concerned lest GRABBI's name should come up in the course of an investigation by an enterprising journalist after MURNIKOV's PNG was announced. Since the Department of External Affairs intended to make reference to MURNIKOV's activities among Estonian emigres, and since that community is small and tightly knit, it would not seem to be too difficult for a sharp newsmen to get onto GRABBI's trail. And judging by GRABBI's inaccurate comments and reference to his indirect association with CIA and the FBI, it would not be surprising if GRABBI, in a misguided effort to protect his reputation, should claim to have been an agent for CIA. This would not please us, since GRABBI had been associated with both Juri RAUS and Erik HEINE, and although his relationships with them had no bearing on the legal case of a few years back, it is difficult to foresee just how much might be rehashed in the newspapers. In addition, I offered the suggestion that neither the Canadian Government nor the RCMP would be happy, most likely, if there were allegations that a "CIA agent" had been a link between a KGB officer and the Estonian community in Canada. C [] was impressed by this last point.

6. C [] expressed appreciation for our serious consideration of the proposed PNG action and asked if, in light of the possibility of awkward publicity, we would prefer that MURNIKOV not be PNG'd. I said we would not presume to tell them whether they should or should not proceed with the action, but we would like them to be aware of the potential

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embarrassment I also asked that we be kept informed as the PNG action proceeds.

7. confirmed that GRABBI has returned from his trip and has gone to Canada where he is currently (in the course of the present two or three days) being interviewed by the RCMP. A full report of that interview will be made available to us.

8. In the course of our conversation, I reiterated that GRABBI is not of operational interest to us and that we are not, and have not been, in operational touch with him. I acknowledged that we had looked him over a few years ago and decided against any involvement with him. I made no comment about the "International Advisory Committee."

Acting Asst. Chief, European Division
for the British Commonwealth Region

A/EURBC: kp (15 Aug 89)

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